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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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EXAMINER

KERR, KATHLEEN M

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
1652	

DATE MAILED: 11/15/2001

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.	HONJO ET AL.
Examiner	Art Unit
Kathleen M Kerr	1652

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 1 MONTH(S) FROM
THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 22 August 2001 .

2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-13 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) _____ is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) 1-13 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

11) The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.

If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.

12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some * c) None of:

- Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
- Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____ .
- Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).

a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

15) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____

2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ 6) Other

DETAILED ACTION

Application Status

1. Claims 1-13 are pending in the instant application.

Restriction

2. Restriction is required under 35 U.S.C. § 121 and 372. This application contains the following inventions or groups of inventions which are not so linked as to form a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1. In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.499, applicant is required, in response to this action, to elect a single invention to which the claims must be restricted.

Group I, claim(s) 1-8 and 10-12, drawn to mouse A55 polypeptides (as described by SEQ ID NOs: 1-10 which all related to the same polypeptide), compositions thereof, encoding cDNA, vectors, host cells, and methods of making the polypeptide.

Group II, claim(s) 9 and 10, drawn to antibodies to a mouse A55 polypeptide and compositions thereof.

Group III, claim(s) 13, drawn to methods of screening for an antagonist or agonist of the A55 mouse polypeptide.

The Examiner notes that Claim 10 is found in both Groups I and II. This is due to the Markush-like group in Claim 10 drawn to either subject matter of Group I, polypeptides, or Group II, antibodies to said polypeptides.

3. The inventions listed as Groups I-III do not relate to a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1 because, under PCT Rule 13.2, they lack the same or corresponding special technical features for the following reasons.

The special technical feature of the first group presented in the instant application is the mouse A55 polypeptide; said polypeptide is described by its polypeptide sequence and its encoding cDNA sequence. The cDNA sequence also has this special technical feature because the polypeptide sequence and the cDNA sequence are directly related via the genetic code. The vectors and host cells contain said cDNA and, thus, are also part of the special technical feature of the first group. The method of making the A55 polypeptide is the first method of making and/or using the special technical feature that is grouped together with the special technical feature; said method uses the cDNA and produces the polypeptide.

The polypeptides of Group I are related to the antibodies of Group II by virtue of being the cognate antigen (protein) necessary for the production of the antibody. Although the protein and antibody are related due to the necessary steric complementarity of the two, they do not share the same special technical feature of Group I because they do not have any polypeptide sequence in common, wherein said sequence describes the special technical feature that is the mouse A55 polypeptide.

Group III is a second method of using the special technical feature and, thus, is not grouped with the special technical feature of Group I.

Election

4. A telephone call was made to Mr. Mark Hissong on November 5, 2001 to request an oral election to the above restriction requirement, but did not result in an election being made.

Applicant is advised that the reply to this requirement to be complete must include an election of the invention to be examined even though the requirement be traversed (37 C.F.R. § 1.143).

Applicant is reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.48(b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a petition under 37 C.F.R. § 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(i).

Conclusion

5. Claims 1-13 are restricted as noted above. Applicants must respond to the instant Office action by electing an invention to be examined.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kathleen M Kerr whose telephone number is (703) 305-1229. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday, from 8:30am to 5pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ponnathupura Achutamurthy can be reached on (703) 308-3804. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 308-0294 for regular communications and (703) 305-3014 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0196.

[Signature]
PONNATHUPURA ACHUTAMURTHY
Supervisory Patent Examiner

KMK
November 5, 2001